

**Act now to protect harmony, DAP tells Education Ministry**  
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**BY ELIZABETH ZACHARIAH**

The DAP has joined in the chorus calling on the Education Ministry to carry out swift and severe punishment on the SK Sri Pristina authorities for ordering its non-Muslim pupils to have their recess meals in the shower room.

DAP National Public Secretary Tony Pua also urged the ministry to come up with strict guidelines so that schools will not resort to such measures in future to protect the sanctity of the fasting month.

"For example, non-Muslim students must be allowed to eat in school canteens during fasting month, and the canteens must remain open," he said.

"The failure to even come up with, and enforce, such guidelines will only mean that the ministry is granting tacit approval for such action, and will almost certainly make racial polarisation in Malaysia an irreversible process," he said.

Pua said that while the ministry has pledged to act, it is not the first such case and it will not be the last.

"Over the past few years, we have read many such reports, including a principal in Kedah telling off the Chinese pupils for being insensitive towards their Muslim peers by eating in the school compound during Ramadan and telling them to "balik China".

"There were equally ridiculous cases of cheerleading teams being disbanded, decrees for lion dance without drums during Chinese New Year as well as blanket bans on Christian fellowship groups," he added. – July 24, 2013.

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